

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON N.Y. TIMES SERIES ON DRUGS

REF.: AMBASSADOR HILL TELCON WITH BARTCH, ARA/APU

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED ON APRIL 21 FOR RESPONDING
TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON NEW YORK TIMES' SERIES OF ARTICLES
ON LATIN AMERICA AS SOURCE OF HARD DRUGS ENTERING U.S.
YOU MAY DRAW ON AS REQUIRED.

QTE. Q. WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THE TIMES
ARTICLE ON LATIN AMERICA BEING A CHIEF SOURCE OF HARD DRUGS
ENTERING THE U.S.?

A. LATIN AMERICA IS CERTAINLY A MAJOR SOURCE FOR HARD
DRUGS ENTERING THE U.S. THIS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE
HEMISPHERE AND THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION HAVE BEEN
COOPERATIVE IN TRYING TO STEM THIS TRAFFIC. WE CANNOT
CONFIRM THAT LATIN AMERICA IS THE QTE CHIEF UNQTE SOURCE
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SINCE, GIVEN THE ILLEGAL NATURE OF THE TRAFFIC, IT IS

HARD TO BE CERTAIN OF THE ORIGIN OF NARCOTICS ENTERING
THE U.S.

Q. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CORRUPTION IN THOSE GOVERNMENTS
REPORTED BY THE TIMES?

A. I CANNOT CONFIRM ANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS MADE IN THE
ARTICLE ABOUT CORRUPTION.

Q. WILL THE NARCOTICS ISSUE BE DISCUSSED BY THE SECRE-
TARY DURING HIS VISIT?

A. THE COUNTRIES THE SECRETARY IS VISITING ARE NOT
MAJOR TRAFFICKING CENTERS AND HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE IN
TRYING TO CONTROL SUCH TRAFFIC AS THEY MAY HAVE. IT IS
NOT AN ISSUE THAT WE WOULD EXPECT TO COME UP. UNQTE.

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